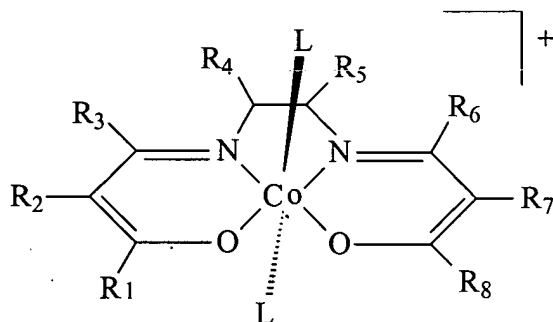


IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, and 10 as rewritten below.

1. (Currently amended) A method of increasing the stability in aqueous media of a cobalt(III) Schiff base complex comprising:

- (a) obtaining a compound having the structure:



wherein one axial ligand position (L) is NHRR' or 2-methylimidazole,

wherein R and R' are independently selected from hydrogen and substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, ester, alkoxy, ether; and

R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ are independently selected from hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, ester, alkoxy, ether, hydrophilic organic acid, amine, alkyl amine, alcohol, and aryl; and

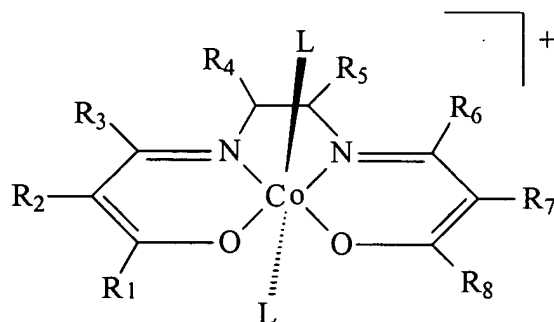
- (b) adding a linker that connects Co^+ R₁ with the remaining axial ligand position (L) wherein,

the linker has the formula $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{NR}''\text{R}'''$

wherein n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and

R R'' and $R' R'''$ are independently selected from hydrogen and substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl; or R R'' and $R' R'''$ can cooperate to form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle optionally having one or more double bonds.

2. (Previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein n is 3, 4 or 5, and R , R' , R'' and R''' are hydrogen.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein n is 2, 3 or 4, R and R'' R' cooperate to form 2-methyl imidazole, and R'' and R''' cooperate to form imidazole.
4. (Previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein n is 3, 4, or 5, and R , and R' are hydrogen, and R'' and R''' cooperate to form imidazole.
5. (Currently amended) A method of increasing the stability in an aqueous medium of a cobalt(III) Schiff base complex comprising:
 - (a) obtaining a cobalt(III) Schiff base complex having the structure:



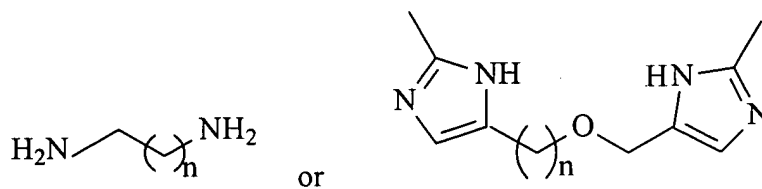
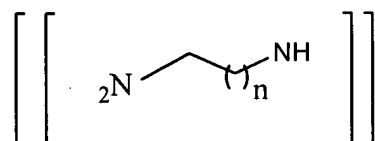
wherein a first axial position (L) and a second axial position (L) are independently selected from $NHRR'$,

wherein each R and R' are independently selected from hydrogen and substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, ester, alkoxy, ether; or R and R' can cooperate to form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle optionally having one or more double bonds; and

R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ are independently selected from hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, ester, alkoxy, ether, hydrophilic organic acid, amine, alkyl amine, alcohol, and aryl; and

- (b) contacting the cobalt(III) Schiff base complex with a linker that connects the first and second axial positions,

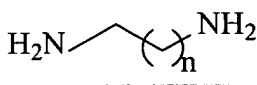
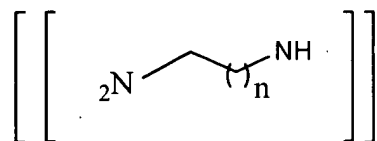
wherein the chelator has the structure:



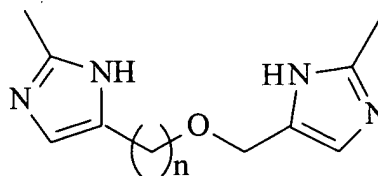
wherein n is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, ~~where R and R'~~, wherein at least one L is NH₃ or a substituted or unsubstituted imidazole.

7. (Previously added) The method of claim 5, wherein the first axial positions and the second axial position are contained in the same Schiff base complex molecule.
8. (Previously added) The method of claim 5, wherein the first axial position is in a first Schiff base complex molecule and the second axial position is in a second Schiff base complex molecule.
9. (Currently amended) A method of increasing the stability in an aqueous medium of complexes of Cobalt (III) Schiff-bases complexes comprising contacting the Schiff base complex with a bidentate having from about three to ~~about~~ eight CH₂ units that can bind to a first axial ligand position and a second ligand position.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the linker is

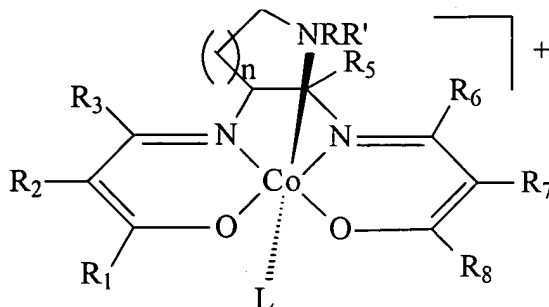


or



wherein n is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.

11. (Previously added) A compound having the structure:



wherein:

L is $NHRR'$; and

each R and R' are independently selected from hydrogen and substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, ester, alkoxy, ether; or R and R' can cooperate to form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle optionally having one or more double bonds; and

$R_1, R_2, R_3, R_5, R_6, R_7$ and R_8 are independently selected from hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, ester, alkoxy, ether, hydrophilic organic acid, amine, alkyl amine, alcohol, and aryl; n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8.

12. (Previously added) The compound of claim 11, wherein each R and R' are both hydrogen.

13. (Previously added) The compound of claim 11, wherein R is hydrogen and R' is $(C_6H_5)_3C-$.

14. (Previously added) The compound of claim 11, wherein each R and R' cooperate to form imidazole and n is 1.
15. (Previously added) The compound of claim 11, wherein L is NH₃ and R and R' cooperate to form imidazole.
16. (Previously added) The compound of claim 11, wherein L is 2-methyl imidazole.